

# **Pipeline Construction – Issues Observed & How to Prevent Reoccurrence**



# Safety MUST be our Culture!!



# Agenda

- Introduction/Purpose of why we are here today & VGOA support (Dan Cote and Robert Duvall)
- OQ
- Expectations for participation
- Pipeline Safety Accidents
- Repetitive construction issues observed
- Safety culture in construction-How do we address this?
- Create and complete a roadmap for a Safety Stand Down Day

# VGOA Support

- Dan Cote – Vice President of Pipeline Safety and Compliance Columbia Gas of Virginia
- Robert Duvall – Vice President of Operations Virginia Natural Gas





# Purpose of Today

- We continue to see the same issues over and over, year after year with the same explanations as to why they occur.
- By the end of today, we will define and create a roadmap that each Company and contractor will use to hold a Safety Stand Down Day and present it to the rest of the conference Thursday.

# Focus on Safety?

- Companies know how many lost time hours due to “on the job” injuries they have and closely track other OSHA and personal safety performance measures
- Companies have policies about vehicle accidents – some will terminate employees after 2 avoidable accidents, some require employees to meet with management groups that include the president of the company

# Purpose of Today

- Staff has found that on any given day, there are approximately 270 crews performing natural gas construction activities in the state, including SAVE Projects, renewals, and new construction.
- In 2011-2012 approximately 20,000 services and 250 miles of main
- Staff completed 2500 construction inspections over the past 18 months.

# Root Cause

-Is it training and qualification?

-Is it culture?

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# Operator Qualifications

Our findings included:

- A number of plans had not been updated for new processes or procedures.
- Some plans contained outdated information from 2004 or prior.
- Some referenced equipment not even in use by the operator.
- Many contained over-simplified testing materials that did not adequately evaluate knowledge or skill sets.

# Operator Qualifications

- Our investigation found that, in certain cases, individuals could be “requalified” to perform an OQ task in less than 15 minutes.
- We also found that some companies allowed individuals failing a test to retake them immediately until they passed.

# Operator Qualifications

-For our purpose today, all employees are assumed to be properly qualified under the new OQ Program.

-If an issue is found, there will be one of two categories of employees involved:

1. Qualified and Complacent
2. Qualified and Had a Bad Day



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# Expectations for Participation

The only way this will be successful is to gather input from all of you. At the end of each section, you will see a slide with this sign:



When you see this, we will discuss and decide whether this is due to training/OQ or culture.

# Agenda

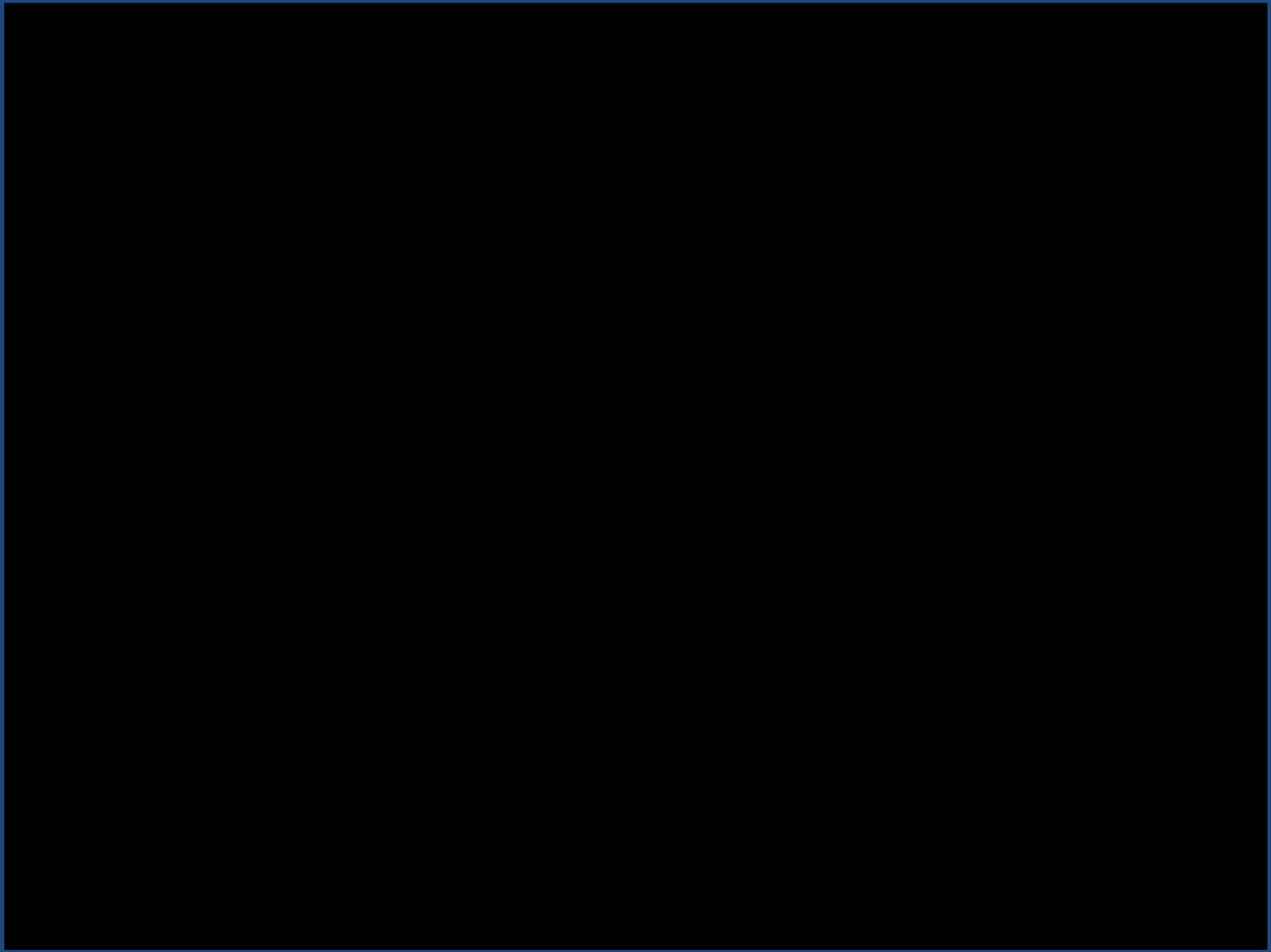
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# Pipeline Safety Accidents

# Royal Oak, MI

- **February 27, 2013**: A gas company crew allegedly ruptured a gas service line while replacing a gas main.
- The gas ignited, destroying one home and damaging at least 20 others.
- One person died as a result of the blast.

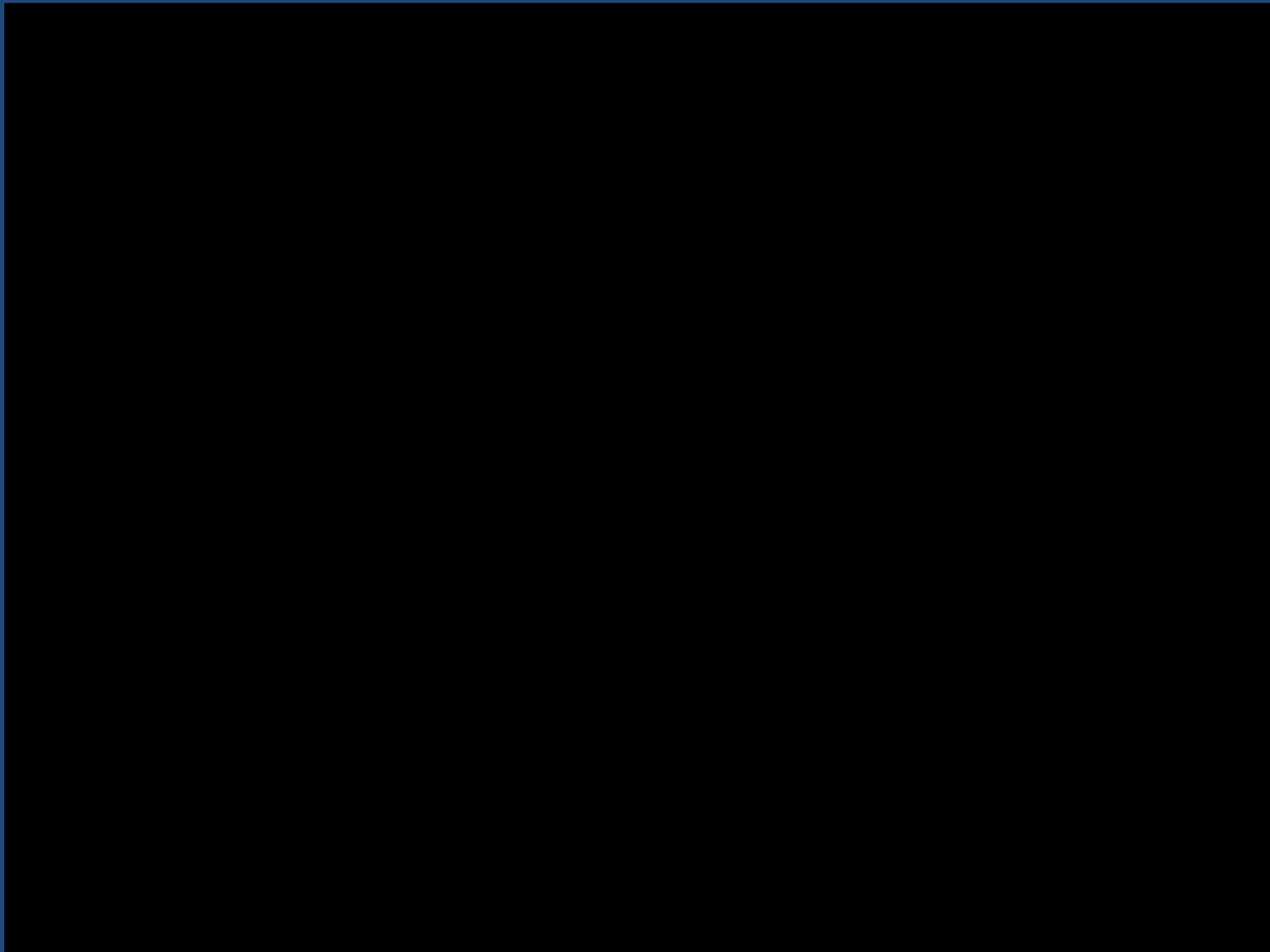




# Kansas City, MO

- **February 19, 2013**: A contractor allegedly struck a two inch gas line with an underground boring machine.
- Gas began to migrate into a nearby restaurant.
- The fire department responded to the incident approximately 45 minutes before the blast occurred, but left the scene after being told by the gas company that everything was under control.
- It took 52 minutes from the time the gas company was notified before the occupants of the restaurant were informed of the gas leak by a gas company employee and asked to evacuate.
- Seventeen minutes after the occupants of the restaurant were notified, an explosion occurred and resulted in one person killed, 15 people injured, 3 of them critically.









Discussion Point

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# Separation Issues























# South Riding, Virginia 1998





1 killed, 3 injured, 2 homes destroyed,  
and six other homes damaged.





Discussion Point:

Is this training and qualification?

-or-

Is this culture?

## §192.325(b)

Failure to install a main with enough clearance from any other underground structure to allow proper maintenance and to protect against damage that might result from proximity to other structures.

## Code of Virginia §56-257

Failure to install an underground electric utility in a manner that follows applicable industry standards such as the National Electric Safety Code and the Utility Industry Coalition of Virginia Standards by not achieving at least 12 inches of separation between the underground electric utility and a underground natural gas utility.

# Protection Against Accidental Ignition



# Milton, GA

- A utility crew drilling to replace a utility pole allegedly struck a natural gas line.
- The resulting explosion and flames engulfed a cherry picker bucket, as well as the worker inside.
- The worker jumped approximately 30 feet to the ground, and suffered burns over 80 percent of his body.

















APR 5 2007















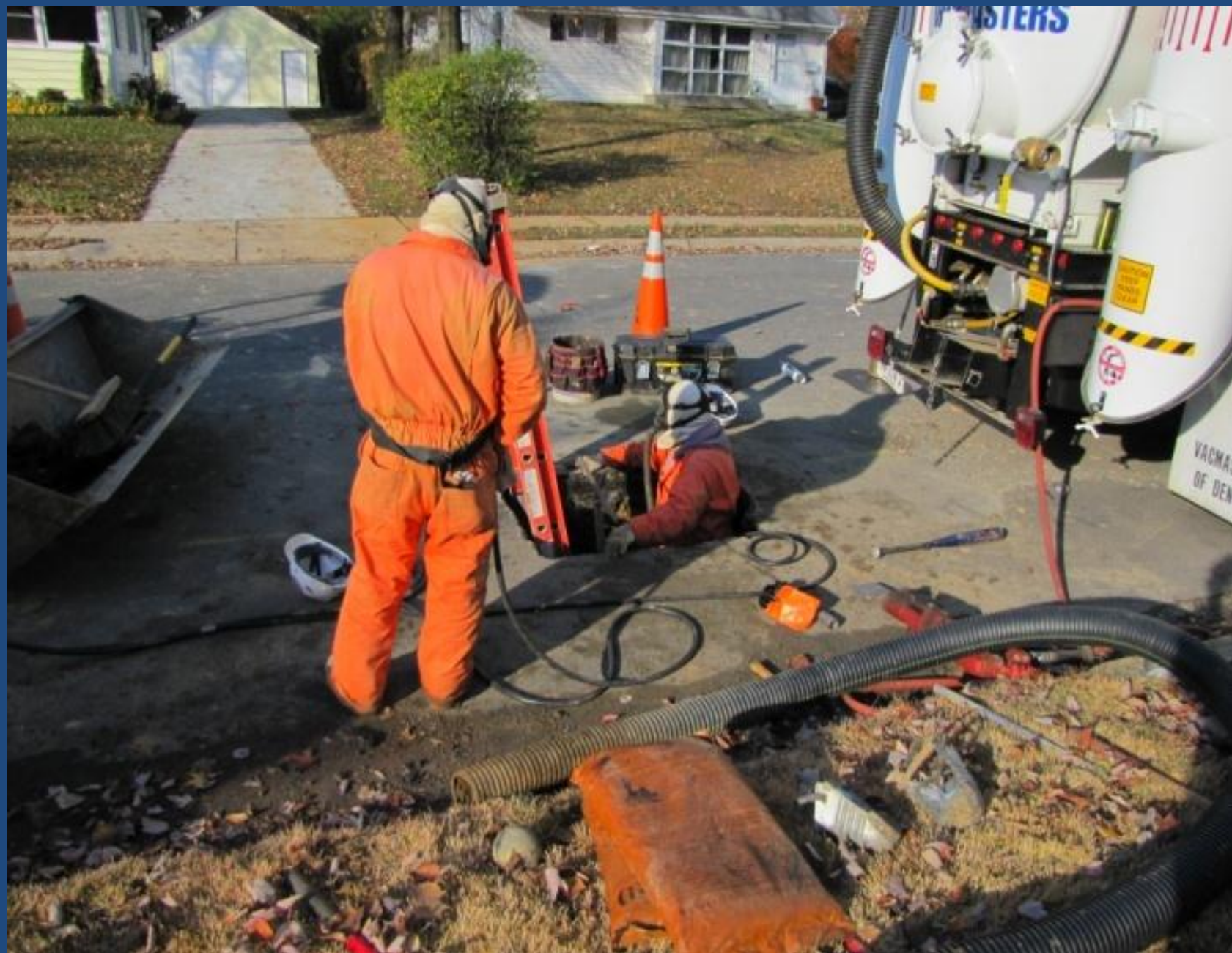




















Discussion Point:

Is this training and qualification?

-or-

Is this culture?

## **§192.751(a)**

When a hazardous amount of gas is being vented into open air, each potential source of ignition must be removed from the area and a fire extinguisher must be provided.

## §192.605(a) to Comply with §192.605(b)(9)

Taking adequate precautions in excavated trenches to protect personnel from the hazards of unsafe accumulations of vapor or gas, and making available when needed at the excavation, emergency rescue equipment, including a breathing apparatus and, a rescue harness and line.

Squeeze Offs

















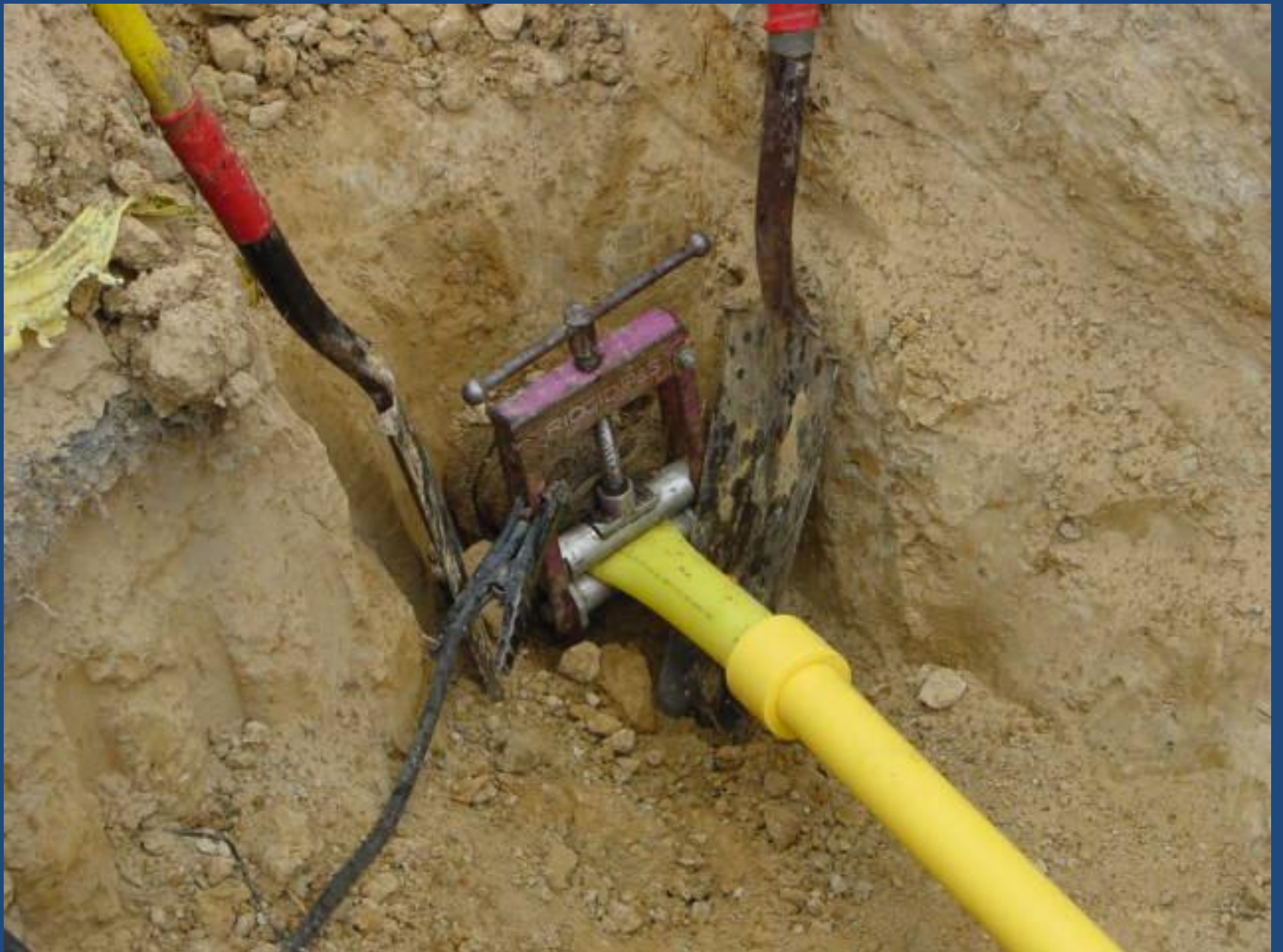














Discussion Point:

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# **Industry Standards and Pipe Manufacturer's Recommendation**

The squeeze-off tool must be at least 3 pipe diameters, or 12 inches, whichever is greater, away from any butt fusion, any socket, saddle, mechanical fitting, or previous squeeze-off location.



**Cover**















03/27/2013 10:31





08/24/2011 13:02





















Discussion Point:

Is this training and qualification?

-or-

Is this culture?

## **§192.327(b)**

Each buried main must be installed with at least 24 inches (610 millimeters) of cover.

## **§192.361(a)**

Each buried service line must be installed with at least 12 inches(305 millimeters) of cover in private property and at least 18 inches (457 millimeters) of cover in streets and roads.



Backfill



06/24/2013 09:54

























Discussion Point:

Is this training and qualification?

-or-

Is this culture?



## **§192.317(a)**

The operator must take all practicable steps to protect each main from washouts, floods, unstable soil, landslides, or other hazards that may cause the pipeline to move or to sustain abnormal loads.

# Tracer Wire















Flow







Discussion Point:

Is this training and qualification?

-or-

Is this culture?



## **§192.321(e)**

Tracer wire may not be wrapped around the pipe and contact with the pipe must be minimized but is not prohibited.

# 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Party Damages





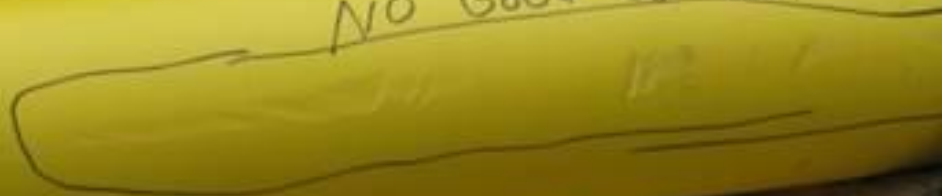








NO Good CUT OUT























DEC 19 2006

















01/23/2013 14:44



Discussion Point:

Is this training and qualification?

-or-

Is this culture?

# Underground Utility Damage Prevention Act

## § 56-265.24. Duties of excavator

In the event of any damage to, or dislocation, or disturbance of any underground utility line including its appurtenances, covering, and coating, in connection with any excavation or demolition, the person responsible for the excavation or demolition operations shall immediately notify the operator of the underground utility line and shall not backfill around the underground utility line until the operator has repaired the damage or has given clearance to backfill...



# Weak Link Use



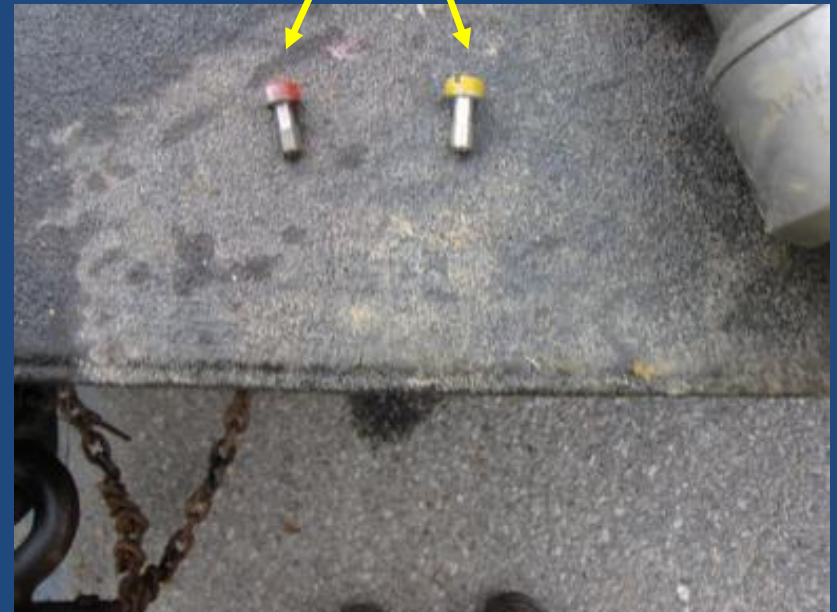




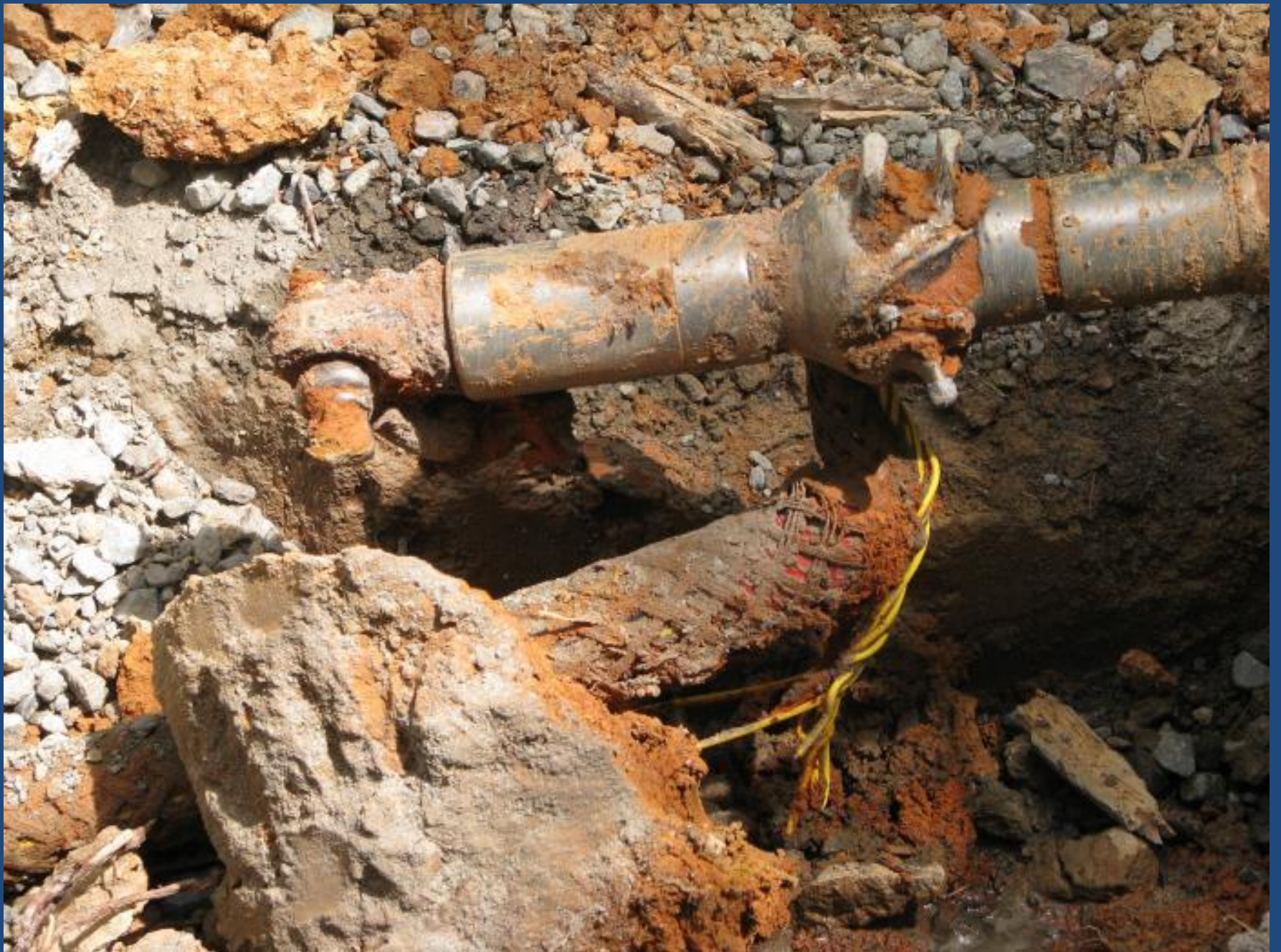




Shear Pins















Discussion Point:

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## §192.321(c)

Plastic pipe must be installed so as to minimize shear or tensile stresses.

# Plastic Joining Issues







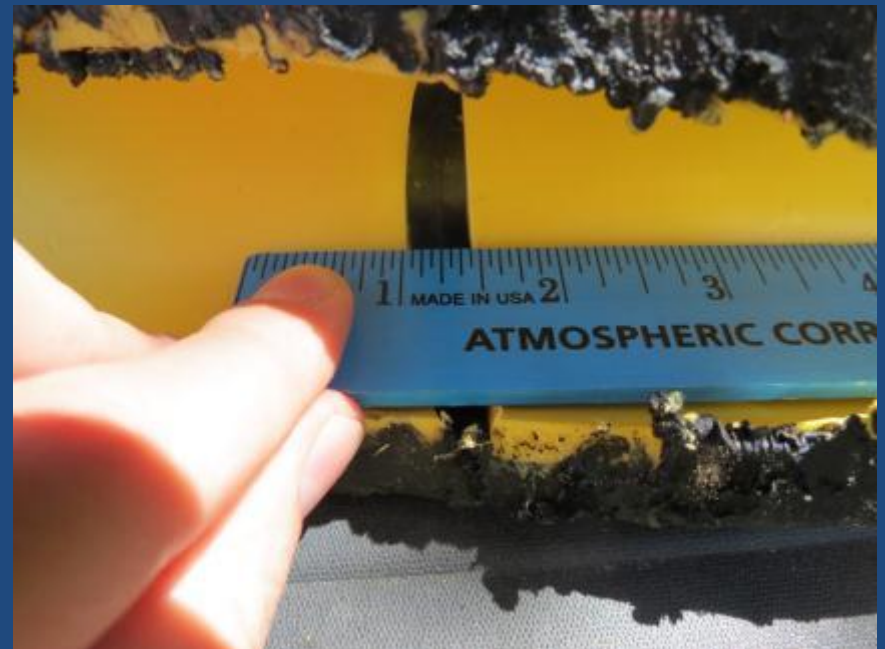








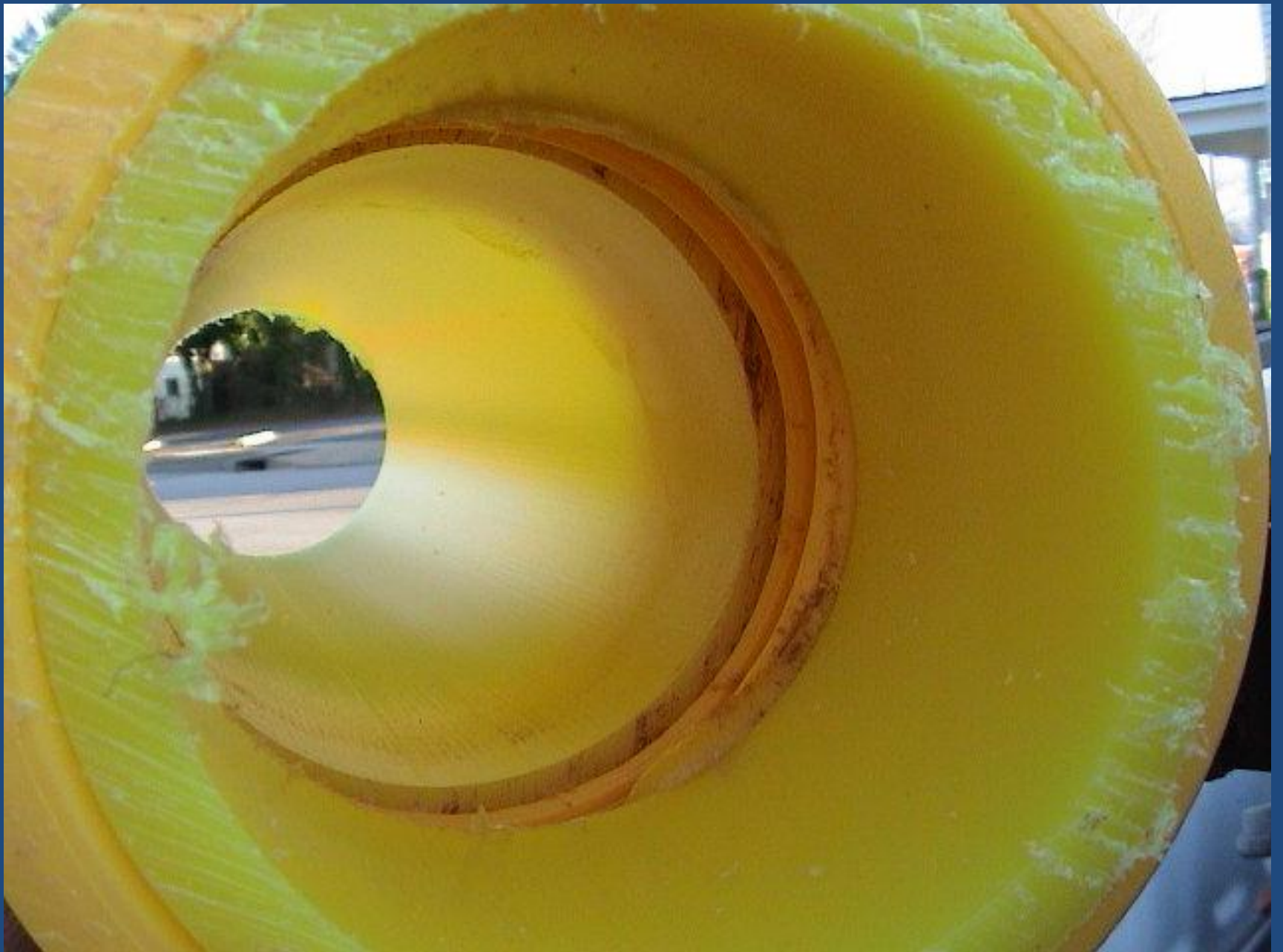












1-1002  
SUNBELT TRAPS DR11.BF.YEL.  
D. 1.5 C. STL. 40V. FUSE  
D. 1.5 C. STL. 40V. FUSE  
Lot 2  
8/12 US

08/27/2012 15:11

















UPC  
CPN: 6598819  
CENTRAL  
PDPN: 1182980  
CY SKT REDUCER 1 1/4 X 1 CTS  
P2426 YELLOW CSA IAPMO  
6598819 CE B137.4 MADE IN USA



















== 6" IPS SDR 13.5 == DRI

2  
#

JUN 12 2006





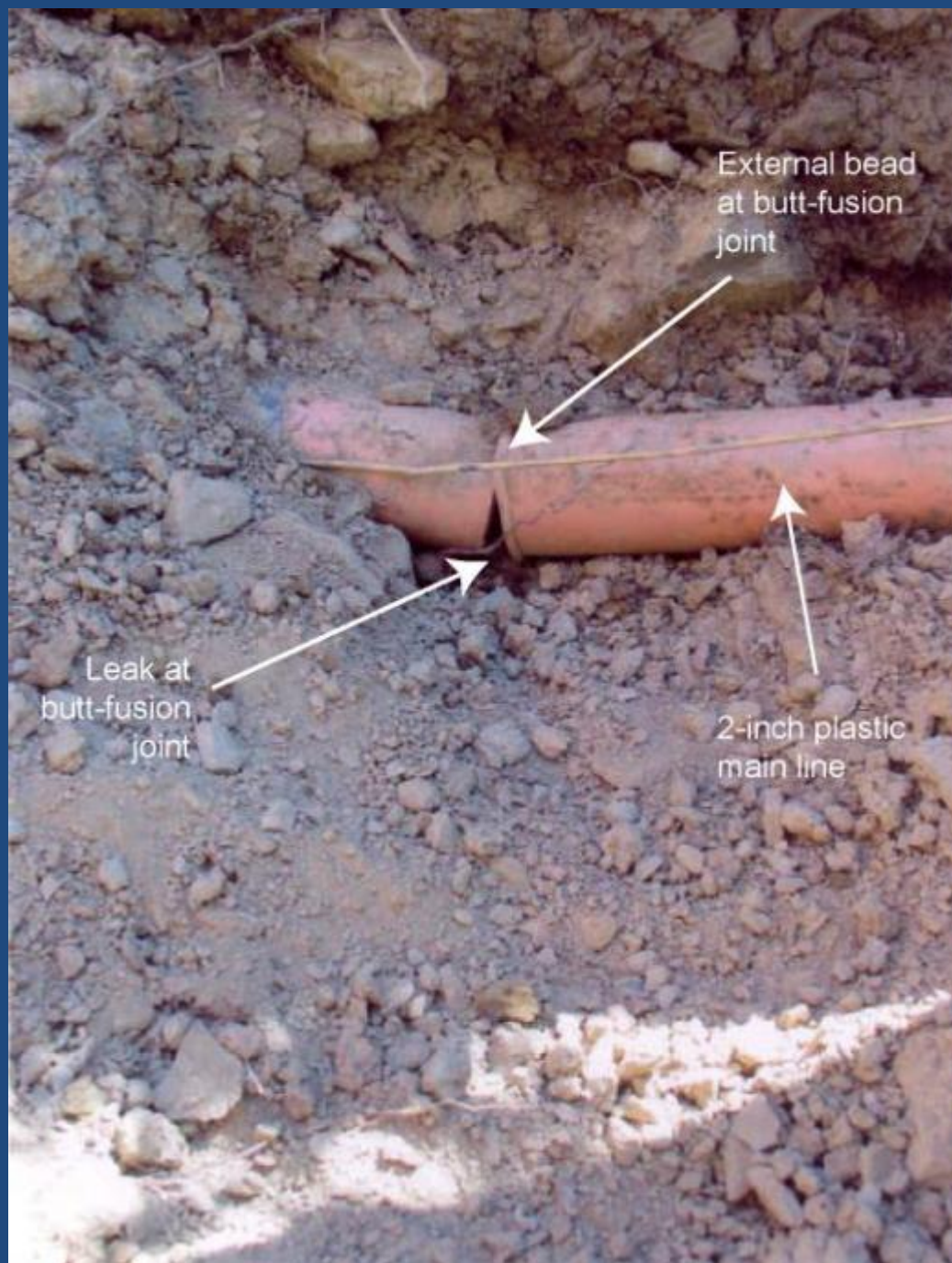


ITEM # 57  
HV TAPT  
SDR11 PE  
EF 5/8 H  
90 SEC 402  
01/03



2 IPS X 2 IF

DEC 8 2004



External bead  
at butt-fusion  
joint

Leak at  
butt-fusion  
joint

2-inch plastic  
main line









Discussion Point:

Is this training and qualification?

-or-

Is this culture?

# §192.281(c)

Heat-fusion joints. Each heat-fusion joint on plastic pipe must comply with the following:

- (1) A butt heat-fusion joint must be joined by a device that holds the heater element square to the ends of the piping, compresses the heated ends together, and holds the pipe in proper alignment while the plastic hardens.
- (2) A socket heat-fusion joint must be joined by a device that heats the mating surfaces of the joint uniformly and simultaneously to essentially the same temperature.
- (3) An electrofusion joint must be joined utilizing the equipment and techniques of the fittings manufacturer or equipment and techniques shown, by testing joints to the requirements of §192.283(a)(1)(iii), to be at least equivalent to those of the fittings manufacturer.

## §192.321(c)

Plastic pipe must be installed so as to minimize shear or tensile stresses.



# Welding and Coating Issues













08/27/2013 13:30



08/27/2013 13:41

"Put in the  
ALL-WEATHER WRITING"

CONT

PAGE















06/24/2013 09:14



07/16/2013 10:29





























use. FIRST AID: In case of eye contact, flush immediately with plenty of water. If affected by inhalation of vapors

## DIRECTIONS:

Surfaces should be cleaned thoroughly by wire brushing in the field. No priming is required. Thinning is not required except for cold spray. If thickening occurs restore to original consistency by stirring. Stir thoroughly before using. Apply Cold by brush glove or booster pump spray to surfaces to be coated. To touch apply a second at the same thickness.

For use with a fiberglass mesh reinforcing wrap such as Royston Glass Wrap, apply a first coat of Roskote, and a second coat of Roskote, or (b) apply a second coat of Roskote and wrap with fiberglass mesh. Backfilling may be done 1 to 1 1/2 hours after application of the second coat of Roskote or pipeline felt.

FOR PROFESSIONAL OR INDUSTRIAL USE ONLY

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PURCHASER: Neither the manufacturer nor the distributor shall be liable for injury, loss or damage, direct or consequential, arising from the use of this product, or its contents, and/or exclusions, except by an agreement in writing between the parties.







































Discussion Point:

Is this training and qualification?

-or-

Is this culture?

# §192.461(a)

- (a) Each external protective coating, whether conductive or insulating, applied for the purpose of external corrosion control must-
- (1) Be applied on a properly prepared surface;
  - (2) Have sufficient adhesion to the metal surface to effectively resist underfilm migration of moisture;
  - (3) Be sufficiently ductile to resist cracking;
  - (4) Have sufficient strength to resist damage due to handling and soil stress; and,
  - (5) Have properties compatible with any supplemental cathodic protection.



## §192.461(b)

Each external protective coating which is an electrically insulating type must also have low moisture absorption and high electrical resistance.

## §192.461(c)

Each external protective coating must be inspected just prior to lowering the pipe into the ditch and backfilling, and any damage detrimental to effective corrosion control must be repaired.



## §192.461(d)

Each external protective coating must be protected from damage resulting from adverse ditch conditions or damage from supporting blocks.

## §192.461(e)

If coated pipe is installed by boring, driving, or other similar method, precautions must be taken to minimize damage to the coating during installation.



## §192.225(a)

Welding must be performed by a qualified welder in accordance with welding procedures qualified under section 5 of API 1104 (incorporated by reference, see §192.7) or section IX of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code "Welding and Brazing Qualifications" (incorporated by reference, see §192.7) to produce welds meeting the requirements of this subpart.

## §192.235

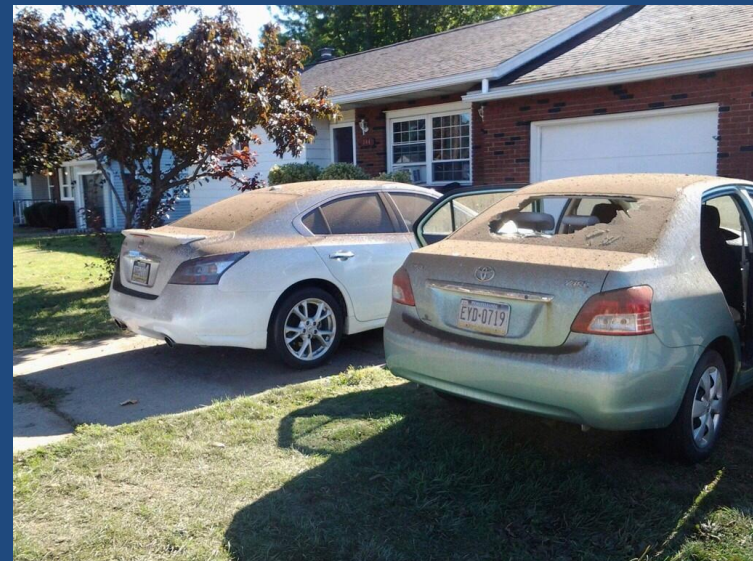
Before beginning any welding, the welding surfaces must be clean and free of any material that may be detrimental to the weld, and the pipe or component must be aligned to provide the most favorable condition for depositing the root bead. This alignment must be preserved while the root bead is being deposited.

# Pressure Testing



# Taylor, PA

- A contractor was installing a gas pipeline
- Crew was pressure testing the line when the pressure caused an explosion under the road
- Two vehicles were damaged as a result of the flying debris















Discussion Point:

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-or-

Is this culture?



## §192.725(b)

Each service line temporarily disconnected from the main must be tested from the point of disconnection to the service line valve in the same manner as a new service line, before reconnecting.

## §192.513(c)

The test pressure must be at least 150 percent of the maximum operating pressure or 50 p.s.i. (345 kPa) gage, whichever is greater.





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# How Do We Address Safety Culture in Construction?

- When you see an issue, what do you think should be done?
- What should happen when somebody has a construction issue?
- How do you get an employee to understand the intent of safety culture and truly believe in it?

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